

Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians

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Against:

RANGEL RAMIREZ

Glendale, CA 91206

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING AND PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation

Case No. VN 2007 352

FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION

Respondent.

Complainant alleges:

1114 E. Wilson Avenue, Apt. 1

OSVALDO RANGEL, AKA OSVALDO

Vocational Nurse License No. VN 200101

PARTIES

- 1. Teresa Bello-Jones, J.D., M.S.N., R.N. (Complainant) brings this First Amended Accusation solely in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board).
- 2. On or about June 25, 2002, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians issued Vocational Nurse License Number VN 200101 to Osvaldo Rangel, aka Osvaldo Rangel Ramirez (Respondent). The Vocational Nurse License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on September 30, 2011, unless renewed.

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JURISDICTION

3. This First Amended Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

- 4. Section 118(b) of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated. Under section 2892.1 of the Code, the Board may renew an expired license at any time within four years after the expiration.
 - 5. Section 2878 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

"The board may suspend or revoke a license issued under this chapter [the Vocational Nursing Practice Act (Bus. & Prof Code, § 2840, et seq.)] for any of the following:

- "(a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes but is not limited to any of the following:
 - (1) Incompetence or gross negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions.
 - (4) The mistreatment or abuse of any patient."
- 6. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2518.6, states, in pertinent part:
- "(a) A licensed vocational nurse shall safeguard patients'/clients' health and safety.
- (b) A licensed vocational nurse shall adhere to standards of the profession and shall incorporate ethical and behavioral standards of professional practice which include but are not limited to the following:
 - (1) Maintaining current knowledge and skills for safe and competent practice.
- (c) A violation of this section constitutes unprofessional conduct for purposes of initiating disciplinary action."
- 7. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that a Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Conviction of Crime Substantially Related to Practice)

- 8. Respondent is subject to discipline under Code section 2878, subdivision (f), and in that Respondent has been convicted of the following crime that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a licensed vocational nurse:
- a. On November 25, 2009, in the Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, in the case entitled *People of the State of California vs. Osvaldo Ramirez*, Case No. 9CA11466, Respondent was convicted by the court of one count of violating Penal Code section 602 subdivision (k) (trespassing), a misdemeanor. The circumstances are that Respondent engaged in unacceptable behavior in a public place as follows:

On or about September 10, 2009, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) vice officers were working undercover in an area of Elysian Park because of citizen complaints of lewd conduct. During this surveillance, police officers observed and arrested Respondent for exposing his penis and masturbating in plain view of them. Respondent was charged with lewd conduct which was later dropped to a conviction of trespass in a plea bargain based upon Respondent's claim that he was not committing a lewd act, but rather, urinating in the park because he could not find a rest room.

SECOND CAUSE OF DISCIPLINE

(Commission of Act Punishable as a Sexually Related Crime)

9. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2878, subdivisions (a) and (k) of the Code, on the grounds of unprofessional conduct in that Respondent committed an act punishable as a sexually related crime which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a licensed vocational nurse.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence/Unprofessional Conduct)

10. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2878, subdivision (a), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, as defined in section 2878, subdivision (a)(1), of the

Code, in that from January, 2007 through July, 2007, while employed by Kaiser Permanente, as a licensed vocational nurse, Respondent was grossly negligent in the following respects:

- a. On or about January 18, 2007, Respondent practiced outside the scope of a licensed vocational nurse by advising a patient that his medical doctor would send a referral to the Head and Neck Clinic after he had finished an ear washing procedure on the patient, when in fact, Respondent had not received a referral for this patient by any physician.
- b. On or about February 28, 2007, Respondent practiced outside the scope of a licensed vocational nurse by assessing an Alzheimer patient as being combative and failing to perform an ear wash on the patient without reporting it to the attending physician.
- c. On or about March 2, 2007, Respondent misrepresented himself to a patient as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Public Health when, in fact, he did not hold any such title, position, or current certification for such title.
- d. On or about July 5, 2007, Respondent misrepresented himself on Kaiser Permanente stationery as holding a Certification in Emergency Nursing and TNCC which he intended to send to a patient instructing the patient(s) to have his or her blood drawn prior to reciving varicella vaccine. Respondent was not authorized by Kaiser to prepare or send these letters. Additionally, Respondent signed the letters with his name followed by "CCLVN, CEN, TNCC, and ADN", although he did not possess any current certification for such title.
- e. On July 6, 2007, a patient was sent to the clinic with a physician's order for an injection of tetanus toxoid. Respondent performed a physical exam on the patient, including the lymph nodes of the neck, axillae, and groin area. On completion of the exam, Respondent made an assessment and diagnosis, and decided to withhold the injection without receiving physician orders to do so. Respondent instructed the patient to return in one to two weeks when his viral infection was gone. Respondent failed to notify the RN or physician about his findings.
- f. On July 2, 2007, at 2:41 PM, Respondent documented that he gave a patient 200 mg of testosterone by injection. The physician order was for 100 mg of Testosterone IM every two weeks.

FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Incompetence/Unprofessional Conduct)

11. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2878, subdivision (a), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, as defined in section 2878, subdivision (a)(1), of the Code, in that from January, 2007 and through July, 2007, while employed by Kaiser Permanente, as a licensed vocational nurse, Respondent was incompetent as set forth above in paragraph 10.

FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failed to Safeguard Client's Health and Safety)

12. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2878, subdivision (a), and California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2518.6, subdivision (c), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, in that Respondent failed to comply with California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2518.6, subdivision (a), in that from January, 2007 through July, 2007, while employed by Kaiser Permanente, as a licensed vocational nurse, Respondent failed to safeguard patients/clients' health and safety as set forth above in paragraph 10.

SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failed to Adhere to Standards of Practice)

13. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2878, subdivision (a), and California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2518.6, subdivision (c), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, in that Respondent failed to comply with California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2518.6, subdivision (b)(1), in that from January, 2007 through July, 2007, while employed by Kaiser Permanente, as a licensed vocational nurse, Respondent failed to adhere to ethical or behavioral standards as set forth above in paragraph 10.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians issue a decision: